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Produces Low-Grade Footwear

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PRODUCTS LOW-GRADE FOOTWEAR -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 22 Sept 51

At a general meeting to discuss possible measures for improving industrial production quality, which took place on 24 and 25 Jul 51, the Minister of Industry, Comrad A. Yugov, very emphatically stressed the fact that some enterprises of the "Kozharska i Kauchukova Industriya" (Leather and Rubber Industry) Combine, directed by B. Mandil, turn out low-grade products. Among the different enterprises mentioned was also the "Chavdar" Factory, directed by V. Velchev.

Two months have already passed since that meeting, but the quality of the production of this enterprise not only has not improved, but as far as some articles are concerned, the quality is worse than in July. In July the percentage of rejected footwear was 0.38 and in August it increased to 1.52 percent. For the same product in July second quality production amounted to 4.97 percent of the total footwear produced, while in August it jumped up to 35 percent.

The chief of the "Tekhnicheski Kontrol" (Technical Control) Section, Comrad P. Velez, insists that large percentage of footwear graded second quality in August was due to the ungraded production remaining from previous months. But it was mainly during this period of time, that is, after the meeting for improving production quality, that the Central Cooperative Federation and the "Obleklo i Obuvki" (Clothing and Footwear) Enterprise refused to purchase from the "Chavdar" Factory, as first quality products, tens of thousands of pairs of sneakers and rubber sandals with crooked tops, unglued eyelets, unsatisfactory rubber glazing, etc. Besides that, it is altogether irregular to allow defective production to accumulate and be re-sorted once every 6 months. This way the administration of an enterprise cannot form a correct opinion of the causes for defects and cannot take the necessary measures for their timely elimination.

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What are the basic defects allowed to occur in production? In all reports of the enterprise, at the top of the list figures one and the same defect -- namely, scorching (untimely vulcanization, solidifying). As a result of scorching, the rubber for the last layer of soles becomes hard, the soles cannot be glued tightly to the upper part of the shoe and consequently they stick out and come unglued and the shoes lose their shape. Scorching results from incorrect compounding of basic and supplementary materials or by over-heating the materials when they are thrown together on the rollers and the calenders. The technical administrator of the factory, Comrad Kopchev, is responsible for the incorrect compounding of materials.

The unsatisfactory baking or the over-heating of the material on the rollers and the calenders is due entirely to the lack of apparatus with which to measure the temperature of the rollers. A modern rubber factory cannot possibly operate with rollers whose temperature the workers must measure by hand. Only a few more degrees of heat than necessary scorches the material.

Very common defects are unsewn seams, unsatisfactory rubber glazing, bent soles, soiled uppers, curved soles, unglued bands, twisted counters, etc. All this is caused exclusively by mistakes during the work which arise from an inadequate organization of production process.

In August the assembly line system was installed in the enterprise.

There are from 30 to 40 workers on each line. The process begins by laying the uppers on the forms, and despite the fact that these uppers pass through 40 pairs of hands, it is only when the shoes are inspected for shipment that it is discovered that some of the uppers are defective.

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The machines are not maintained in good working condition. The rollers are rough and twisted, they scratch and leave bumps on the surface of the rubber. Almost every sheet of rubber is of uneven thickness due to the bad adjustment of the rollers. Microporous rubber often has tiny metal particles stuck to it

The "Chavdar" Enterprise administration has known all these faults for a long time. The administrators of the enterprise, namely, the director Velchev, the technical administrator Kopchev and the chief of the Technical Control Section, Velez, constantly complain of the unsatisfactory qualifications of the workers. What have these administrators done to improve the workers? There are no continuous training courses for the workers. No concrete plan with specific measures to be taken has been prepared for fighting against low-grade production; no specific dates or responsible officials have been designated by either the administration, the Party bureau or the trade union at the enterprise. The assistance extended to the workers is irregular, unsystematic and disorganized. The chief of the Technical Control Section, Velez, does all the work by himself and does not seek the help of the members of his group. The chairman of the trade union at the enterprise, Mircho Yosifov, also works by himself.

The Party organization and the Party groups at the enterprise do not meet regularly. There are Party groups which have not met for months, the agitation staff has not met for almost 3 months, and at present it actually does not even exist.

The assistance of the okoliya Party committee and the okoliya trade union committee is also insignificant. The chief of the economic section at the okoliya Party committee, Comrade St. Danov, often visits the enterprises, but he cannot take care of all problems that arise by himself. Only a few days ago the combine director, B. Mandil, and re-

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representatives of the okoliya Party committee and the okoliya trade union committee visited the "Chavdar" Enterprise in connection with improving production quality. Their visit will have been in vain if their recommendations are not regularly followed.

Special attention should be given to the recommendations made by the Soviet specialist, Comrade Azhnakin, the observance of which will enable the personnel of the "Chavdar" Enterprise, to take their place among the foremost enterprises which turn out only high-grade production.

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